

## VENICE HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

To promote a greater understanding and appreciation of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism and to continue to live the Nembutsu as a warm and friendly temple

Los Angeles, California Summer, 2011 Page 1

## PLACE TO GO AND A PLACE TO BE: THE TEMPLE

Rev. John Iwohara

Why is the temple important to me? Why do I need the temple? For the temple to become a truly significant place for me these are just a couple of the questions that probably need to be answered. The answer does not need to be particularly profound in order for it to be meaningful. It can be a very simple answer. But, it does need to be a sincere answer if the answer is to have any meaning.

In asking myself this question, one answer that I can give is, "the temple is important to me because it gives me a place to go. It gives me a place to be." I'm sure I'm not the only one who can or would give this answer. As an answer it does not seem at all earth shattering or, for that matter, even all that important sounding. It is not, for example, something that you would rush out to get onto paper because it is so important that you want to make sure that it is something you don't forget. It is, in other words, just a simple answer.

Although it is a simple answer, I also think it is a significant answer because the temple does give me a place to go and it does give me a place to be. I can say this because I can also imagine what my life would be like if I didn't have a place to go, or if I didn't have a place to be. Without a place to go I would simply be wandering about and lost. Without a place to be I would live my life constantly feeling ignored or otherwise unappreciated. My life would be filled with either fear or despair. Fortunately, I do have a place to go, and I do have a place to be. The home is this kind of place as well and is probably one reason why people often describe the temple as their "second home."

However, what makes the temple special is the fact that it was at the temple that I learned how important a place to go and a place to be really is to me and that I was able to learn this without having to lose something first. We often don't really appreciate how important something (or someone) is until we lose it. Although the temple can also be a place that forces us to confront this fact about ourselves during the sad times of our lives, it is a place that does all of this by always trying to give something to us. At the temple, if it is really a temple, the gift that is always being shared with us is the Dharma. It is the teaching of a Buddha. It is Namo Amida Butsu. It is especially here that the temple becomes a place to go and a place to be. This is why the temple is important to me. It is why I need the temple.

## Dharma Award/Dharma Discussion Quiz

The Six Realms of Existence are described as the realms of suffering. The Six realms (in order of relative suffering) are: Hell, Hungry Ghost, Animal, Asura (warrior), Human, and Heavenly. What is the common element of each of these six realms that causes each to be a realm of suffering?



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dale Noriyuki, President

Since becoming involved with the board of directors in our temple, the issue of the Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC), its cost and its funding have been under discussion. Many have outlined the details in several attempts to ensure understanding. Former BCA President Dr. Billy Saeki worked tirelessly to negotiate realignment of the debt to minimize its effects. And yet, the greater majority of us are largely void of an adequate understanding of how all issues connect to ourselves on a personal level. I am writing this article to relate to you my understanding and its meaning and I will attempt to provide this understanding to you. It is very important and significant in that the future of our temple and the BCA depends on it.

#### **The NCM Resolution**

At this year's BCA National Council Meeting held in Visalia, vibrant discussion took place in the course of hearing ideas that would address the shortcomings of each year's budgetary funding to programs important to the continued development of Jodo Shinshu throughout America. As it has occurred over the course of the last few years, any budgetary discussions quickly become overshadowed with the financial constraints posed by the ongoing JSC debt, particularly that owed to the California Bank & Trust (JSC) which hovers today around \$3.1 million.

You may have already read in the May edition of the Wheel of Dharma, Janice Doi's article expressing her newly found understanding of the NCM resolution (plan) to eliminate the CB&T debt and its nagging interest payments. If not eliminated, the CB&T \$3.1 million debt creates an interest payment each year (~\$20k/month) that will continue to burden the membership and will dominate annual budget discussions.

Should the loan be defaulted, we risk losing the JSC and the Bishop's residence which are some of the most significant implements to our goals in the proliferation of Jodo Shinshu as a major religious presence in America. We lose them and have nothing to show for the efforts and contributions of many. This is why the resolution was proposed. Based on the math, if all BCA members can put forth \$199 over a 12 month period, this debt will be GONE and we can get back to focusing on our goals beyond while funding all of the programs that we feel are important.

Donations that are made to the BCA may be "unrestricted" which means they may be distributed as the BCA sees appropriate.....which means that they would be prioritized to the payment of the California Bank & Trust (CB&T) debt first. Donations also may be designated to particular BCA programs. However, donated funds available to be used towards the debt payment are now decreasing at an alarming rate, placing our BCA assets at risk. The JSC itself, the Bishop's residence could be lost. Worse yet, all monies contributed to date for the Campaign by temple members would have been in vain, if the loan is defaulted

#### **The JSC Project – What Happened?**

- Costs increased. Personally having over 30 years of experience in the design and construction industry, I can tell you that the events resulting in increased costs of the JSC were not unusual.
- Rain delays to the construction schedule
- Increased costs of building materials because of hurricane Katrina, Iraq War and immense construction activity in China.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 2)

- Stressed availability and transportation of materials because of the above mentioned reasons.
- Design changes such as relocation of the Kodo requested by several BCA ministers and late requirements received from Ryukoku University.

These types of issues do not deserve (blame). These types of issues confront construction projects from time to time and are not unusual.....so much so that with exception of the "design change" issue, they are inclusive into standard language of contracts under the term "force majeure". In other words, they could not be helped. No fault.

- The actual result of Campaign donations for the JSC Project turned out to be much lower than expected. Why would this happen?
  - Drooping economic conditions
  - Stressed personal economics
  - Lack of enough direct communications from the National Council
  - Lack of temple members' understanding of the issues and their significance
  - Lack of temple members listening when crucial issues are discussed.
  - Lack of a sense of connection between temples and the BCA

In all probability, all of these were contributory to the severe under-funding of the project. But I believe that with the due diligence of the National Council and its processes, the thoughts of "mis-management" are unfounded. No apology necessary. I believe that sometimes when things don't go our way, we have a human need to impart blame elsewhere freeing us from the responsibility of living in a democratic society. As for myself, I am ignorant – and I believe that we are ignorant beings. Truth of the matter is that as temple members, we hold responsibilities no different than we do as citizens:

- To voice opinions
- To voice concerns
- To vote our beliefs
- To represent our affiliations and communicate to them
- To understand the issues ask questions

These are the reasons why we have National Council meetings, district meetings and local board meetings. Representation of our affiliations bears the responsibility to communicate the issues as best one can and return feedback through the organization.

The National Council meetings also allows for "Boosters" to witness the proceedings. "Boosters" do not have votes, but they do witness the proceedings and provide potential influence to temple delegates on the issues. You are invited to attend the National Council Meetings held each year.

The means for individuals to be heard exists throughout the organization.

#### BCA and VHBT are 'Inseparable'

We love our temple. We love Venice Hongwanji. We are followers of the Nishi Hongwanji-ha sect. We are Shin Buddhists. The only venue that all of this occurs is within the Buddhist Churches of America.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 3)

It is important for us to understand that everything we have as a temple exists by virtue of the fact that there is a BCA. Yes, true that the commitments and attitudes of individuals and families here in Venice make Venice a warm and friendly place to follow the path to Namo Amida Butsu, however, important to note the following:

- Venice is supported as a temple because there is a BCA.
- Venice has ministers because there is a BCA.
- Venice has been blessed with some of the most dynamic and influential ministers in the history of the BCA.
- Today, the ministerial ranks are being fulfilled in America through the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS).
  The IBS is authorized by the State of California to award degrees acknowledgement of Buddhist studies in the promotion of Shin Buddhism.
- Fellow seekers, future ministerial candidates and Kaikyoshi ministers are educated by programs developed through the Center for Buddhist Education (CBE).
- We have the leadership and vision of a Bishop in America because there is a BCA. Ministers are trained and supported through the CBE, aspiring ministers have opportunity to follow their calling and all seekers.

The BCA is governed by Americans of the Shin Buddhist faith. This governance is not just the BCA Board of Directors, but also includes delegates from Venice and all other BCA temples. These delegates are appointed by and represent each temple membership. With that representation, we the delegates have the responsibility to bring back issues discussed in the National Council venue to temple members ensuring understanding.

## Proud to be Venice

As a member of VHBT we are very prideful, and rightly so. With 50+ years of history in the community, VHBT has affected hundreds of families, community events, and others around the BCA in countless positive ways. VHBT's influence has been substantial throughout the Southern District and the BCA meaning that Venice is not only known for its 'warm and friendly' attitude, but for its leaders that have been committed to the ideals and the forwarding of Namo Amida Butsu. This passion has always posed VHBT in a very positive light.

As I entered the Board of Directors for VHBT, I heard nothing but agonizing over this horrendous debt problem the moment I walked in the door. My thought was that if I didn't agree to it, "I won't contribute to make it go away". How ignorant I have been. I understand appropriately now, I will contribute my part and further whatever our situation allows us to do, because Venice is important to me. I encourage you to do what you feel is right.

In Gassho,

President



## VHBT REMEMBERS ADOPTED VIET NAM WAR KILLED IN ACTION

Dianne Kujubu Bellu

On Saturday, May 28, at 10 a.m., the annual Memorial Day Service for all Japanese Americans who gave their lives in the nation's wars was held adjacent to the Japanese American National War Memorial Court (Memorial Court) at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC) plaza located in the Little Tokyo district of Los Angeles.

This annual memorial service is especially meaningful to VHBT, because the VHBT Board voted on December 4, 2009, to participate in the Japanese American Vietnam War Killed in Action (KIA) adoption program. In this program, community organizations/temples/churches "adopt" the names of 8-12 KIA and honor and remember them.

## The KIA adopted by VHBT include:

- Edward M. Amato, SP4 of Commack, NY, who was 23 years old when he was killed, six months after he started his tour of duty.
- Bruce J. Mori, Pfc. of Los Angeles, CA, who was 20 years old when he was killed due to multiple fragmentation wounds, 39 days after he started his tour of duty.
- Masashi Nakashimo S/Sgt of Santa Barbara, CA, who was 23 years old when he was killed a year and half after he started his tour of duty. He received a posthumous promotion.
- Rockne Masayoshi Noguchi, Pfc. of Honolulu, HI, who was 20 years old when he died of multiple fragmentation wounds, 7 months after he started his tour of duty.
- Terry Y Ogami, Cpl of Reedley, CA, who was 21 years old when he died. He received a posthumous promotion. Terry has a special connection to VHBT as he was a friend of Danny Nakagiri and his uncle and aunt, Sam and Dolly, and their children lived in the house on Culver Blvd., that was sold to the Temple for its original location.
- Takeshi Yabiku, Sp4 of Los Angeles, CA, who was 22 years old when he died of gun or small arms fire.
- Naoto Yamashiro, Sp7 of Honolulu, HI, who was 43 years old, after 20 years in the service.
- Douglas Yuki, Sp4 of Altadena, CA, who was 22 when he was killed in an accidental homicide.

VHBT also honors these young men during our annual Atom Bomb Memorial Service, which will be held on Sunday, August 7, 2011.

Thank you again to Dale, Gale, and Dustin Noriyuki; Milnes and Nori Kurashige;,Danny and Nancy Nakagiri; Tom and Judy Yamaguchi; Kei and Tomoko Fukuda; Aya Masada; and Dianne Kujubu Belli, who attended this moving service and presented a single flower with the adopted serviceman's name attached at the Memorial Court at the conclusion of the service.





## **FUJINKAI NEWS**

By Ethel Sato

Greetings from Fujinkai!

Prior to our past two monthly meetings, Sensei has conducted an introductory class on the Gobunsho. He has been very patient and informative and we appreciate that Sensei is always so willing and available to share his knowledge with us. Unfortunately, many members cannot attend this class and even some meetings due to other commitments, such as full-time employment, ba-chan duty and various other responsibilities.

Our recent sushi sale in March was a great success. Everyone enjoyed the result of the hard work of many (yummy).

We still have many copies of our cookbook, "More Family Favorites" for sale. It is a good gift for Father's Day and birthdays. BUY BUY!!

Fujinkai members who are also members of ABA recently participated in preparing the serving the Country Style Breakfast.

We look forward to a busy summer as the VJCC Natsu Matsuri approaches. As always, we will be making our famous won tons (using our brand new deep fryers!!). Following the Natsu Matsuri, our busy ladies will prepare for the temple's Obon festival and the Obon season. Fujinkai will be selling sushi & won tons. We need dancers as well as workers—remember, all work and no play, etc.

## JR. YBA NEWS

Andrew Oye

Seven Jr. YBA members attended the volleyball tournament at OCBC on Feb.  $5^{th}$  and secured  $2^{nd}$  place.

Jr. YBA had a Valentine's Day fundraiser on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> at Souplantation. The Jr. YBA had a good turnout for the event.

On Mar. 12<sup>th</sup>, Jr. YBA held their annual rummage sale at the Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple.

On Mar. 19<sup>th,</sup> 7 Jr. YBA members attended Seminar 2 at Gardena.

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## YABA NEWS

Hey everyone! Hope your 2011 is going well. YABA has had a busy year so far and we've only just begun planning some of our bigger events.

In March we participated in the annual Techno Buddha conference at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley. It was a fun three day event where we had the opportunity to connect with other young adults from temples throughout California and beyond. We're hoping to continue to have events involving YABA-aged individuals from across California.

We also recently completed our temple service project to partition Rev. John's office and give him a private space. Working with other folks, we added a wall, cleaned and repainted the office, and set up the new office. I hope that Rev. John is enjoying his new space. Big thanks to Kho and Dale for helping with the coordination of everything.

This year, we've decided to try a new booth idea for the VJCC Natsu Matsuri. The details are still in work, but we'll be doing a photo booth so patrons can have a silly (or serious) photo to remember the event. We're retiring the pie throwing booth from the past two years for now, in hopes that we won't be covered in spoiled whipped cream at the end of the weekend.

Don't forget: we're continuing to have our monthly Dharma Discussions on the third Wednesday of the month, 7:30pm at the temple. Everyone is invited. And as always, we're on the lookout for any new members who may be interested in YABA. Please have them contact <a href="mailto:info@veniceyaba.org">info@veniceyaba.org</a>.

In Gassho, Bennett

#### JR. YBA NEWS

(Continued from previous column)

On Mar. 26<sup>th</sup>, 8 members of the Venice Jr. YBA attended a basketball tournament at OCBC and placed 4<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, on Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Jr. YBA held a silent auction to raise money for the Japanese relief fund. Jr. YBA raised \$2,297.



## **CUB SCOUTS PACK 79 NEWS**

Keiichi Ono

#### For the month of March,

On March 17and 18th, we had our annual Pinewood Derby Race at the Temple (Upper Age Thursday, Younger Age Friday). Den 6 (Webelos 1) coordinated the event this year. The race was split up into two days with so many scouts participating in the events. Overall, the event was very successful.

On March19th, our scouts again held their annual Scouting for Food Event. This year we setup a booth at Ralph's Market on Lincoln and at Albertson's near Costco. Our scouts collected several boxes of can goods and cash donation to help those in need. The event was hosted to help the LA Food Bank.

March 25-27<sup>th</sup>, our scouts attended our March Campout at Leo Carrillo Beach Campgrounds. The weather cooperated for us on Friday and for Saturday where our scouts did various activities and went on hikes. By nightfall, our scouts gathered for the group campfire where each den performed skits and den yells. By Saturday night, it started to drizzle and we camped out in the rain.

Our Webelo's were invited to troop 764 on March 26<sup>th</sup> at the VJCC for their fire building demonstration that will provide our Webelos Scouts some insight for the "Fire Building Competition" at the upcoming Webelos Camporee outing.

## For the month of April,

Den 1,2, and 6, which are our Webelos group, went to Camporee at Tejon Ranch this year from April 8-10. All of the Dens did very well and all took home 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> place ribbons in many of the individual events. This year there were a total of 8 Webelos Dens for our area competing. Pack 79 won the overall Camporee for a 5<sup>th</sup> straight year!!!! On Friday it started snowing just as we began to pitch our tents. It continued to snow through out the evening. By morning, there was about a 3" dusting of snow. Between the little bit of sun that came out and the 15mph winds all day Saturday, by lunch time there was almost no trace that it had snowed.

## For the month of May,

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, Our Cub Scout attended our Annual Fishing Trip with the Friends of Rollo on the F/V Betty O in Marina Del Rey. We had 94 anglers attend the fishing trip where they caught 300 Mackerel, 30 Perch, 4 Sand Bass and 3 Barracuda

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## **GIRL SCOUTS TROOP 5325 NEWS**

#### **Senior Girl Scouts Career Fair**

For part of our Girl Scout meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup>, the Senior 2 girls, Erica Tokirio, Robin Willis, Nicole Duus and Kristin Bucher held a Career Fair for the younger scouts of Troop 5325. We had five fascinating speakers; Lisa Lee, a Senior Commercial Loan Processors; Kay Yamamoto, a Senior Water Biologist; Peggy Hsu, a Registered Nurse; Linda Dugan, Dental Hygienist and Marty Moran, LAPD Officer.

The girls were put into groups and began with about eight minutes at each speaker's table. They learned about each occupation and asked many important questions. As they proceeded from one table to the next the girls also got to see pictures of patients, samples of small aquatic creatures, and got newspapers on the latest water biology studies, on-the-go band-aid packs, toothpaste, floss and some girls even requested to be handcuffed by Ms. Moran! All the girls had a good time and we encourage all future seniors to keep holding a career fair for years to come. Thank you so much to all our speakers!

## **CUB SCOUTS PACK 79 NEWS**

(Continued from previous column)

Our Cub Scouts attended the Memorial Day Flag Placement at the National Cemetery in WLA on May 28<sup>th</sup>

#### **Upcoming Events:**

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, our scouts will be graduating and advancing to their new rank and our Webelos II group will be moving on to Boy Scouts.



## **OBON 2011**

With General Chairman, Hiroshi Kadomatsu in charge, preparations for our Obon 2011, which will be held on July 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, is underway. Hours for the event is 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. for Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> and 1:00 p,m. to 9 p.m. for Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup>. Odori will begin at 6:30 p.m. on both nights. Our chairperson has been busily working in obtaining and fulfilling the various requirements and permits demanded by the various governmental agencies. Meanwhile, temple organizations have been making plans, preparations and purchases for their respective food and game booths.

Our Obon Odori will be conducted under the direction of Judy Hopfield and Julia Ueda. Odori practice will be conducted every Monday, Wednesday and Fridays beginning June 27<sup>th</sup> to July 11<sup>th</sup>. There will be no practice on Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.

The Obon/Hatsubon Service will be held on Sunday, July  $10^{\rm th}$  at 10:00 a.m.



Just A Few Bags of Charcoal for our Chicken Teriyaki Booth



# 2011 MEMORIAL SERVICE SCHEDULE

The following is a service schedule if your loved ones passed away in the years indicated below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Service</u>
2010	1 <sup>st</sup> Year
2009	3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual
2005	7 <sup>th</sup> Annual
1999	13 <sup>th</sup> Annual
1995	17 <sup>th</sup> Annual
1987	25 <sup>th</sup> Annual
1979	33 <sup>rd</sup> Annual
1962	50 <sup>th</sup> Annual
1912	100 <sup>th</sup> Annual

## VHBT FUJINKAI

The photograph shown below is being included in the Keiro's Service Wall. The Service Wall is part of the Keiro's 50<sup>th</sup> year celebration and acknowledges volunteer groups, organizations and clubs that have supported the Keiro throughout it's nearly 50 year history. This permanent mural listing volunteer groups will be installed on the walls of the Keiro Activity Center auditorium. Groups that have volunteered time or helped to generate support for the Keiro will be represented. The wall is scheduled to be unveiled on June 25, 2011



## 2011 CALENDAR OF MAJOR SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

## **JULY, 2011**

- 9 & 15 VENICE OBON FESTIVAL SETUP 8:30 A.M.
  - 10 OBON HATSUBON SERVICE 10 A.M.

#### 16-17 VENICE OBON FESTIVAL

19 OBON CLEANUP - 7:00 P.M.

#### **AUGUST, 2011**

- 6-13 LABCC SUMMER CAMP
  - 7 "A" BOMB & VIET NAM KIA MEMORIAL SERVICE 9:30 A.M.
- 9-11 BCA MINISTERS' FUKEN (Seminar)

#### SEPTEMBER, 2011

- 3-4 JR. YBA CONFERENCE SAN FERNANDO
- 11 DHARMA SCHOOL SUNDAE SUNDAY
- 17 ABA MEMORIAL SERVICE 7:30 P.M.
- 18 FALL OHIGAN SERVICE 10 A.M.
- 25 EXCHANGE SERVICE WITH W.L.A. BUDDHIST TEMPLE

#### **OCTOBER, 2011**

- 9 BEC INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE 9:30 A.M.
- 22 FUJINKAI ESHIN NI SAMA MEMORIAL SERVICE 7:30 P.M.
- 30 DHARMA SCHOOL HALLOWEEN PARTY 5:00 P.M.

#### NOVEMBER, 2011

- 5 YABA SAKE TASTING
- 12 ABA STEAK FEAST
- 13 EITAIKYO SERVICE 10 A.M.

## DECEMBER, 2011

- 2 GENERAL MEMBERS MEETING 6:30 P.M.
- 3 MOCHITSUKI SET UP 8 A.M.
- 10 MOCHI TSUKI 7 A.M.
- 11 MOCHI TSUKI WRAP UP & CLEAN UP
- 18 OSEIBO APPRECIATION SERVICE 10 A.M.
- 30 JOYA-E END OF YEAR SERVICE 7:30 P.M.

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED SERVICES & MEETINGS

- DAILY MORNING SERVICE Everyday except Mondays & Wednesdays, 9:30 A.M.
- JOREI FUKYO Monthly Japanese Language Service. First Sunday of each month 12 Noon
- MONTHLY TSUKI TSUITO SERVICE-Fourth Saturday of each month 9:30 A.M.
- MEINICHIKO SERVICE 16<sup>TH</sup> of each month, 7:30 A.M.
- FAMILY DHARMA SERVICE Sundays 9:30 A.M. Student Dharma School Classes & Adult Service – Immediately following Family Dharma Service High School Student Class – First Sunday of each month following Family Dharma Service
- YABA DHARMA DISCUSSION GATHERING 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month, 7:30 P.M..
- TEMPLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING First Friday of each month, 7:30 P.M.
- BUDDHIST WOMENS ASSN. (FUJINKAI) MEETING Tuesday following Temple Board meeting
- DHARMA SCHOOL STAFF MEETING First Sunday of each month, 8:30 A.M.
- ABA MEETING 2<sup>ND</sup> Tuesday following Temple Board Meeting, 7:30 P.M.
- YABA MEETING First Wednesday of each month, 7:30 P.M.
- JR. YBA MEETING First Sunday of each month after Family Dharma Service
- SANGHA TEEN MEETING Second Sunday of each month after Family Dharma Service
- CUB SCOUT PACK 79 PARENT'S MEETING First Thursday of each month, 7 P.M.
- TAI CHI CLASS Every Tuesday, 10 A.M.



## **BCA UPDATE**

## SHINRAN SHONIN 750<sup>TH</sup> MEMORIAL SERVICE

248 members of the BCA made the pilgrimage to the Hongwanji in Kyoto to attend the May 5, 2011 750<sup>th</sup> Memorial Service for Shinran Shonin. The service, held in the newly refurbished Goeido Founder's Hall, was also attended by approximately 3,200 members from throughout Japan. Thirty members of the BCA also participated in the *engi* procession at the start of the service. A special ceremony was conducted on May 18, 2011 in conjunction with the opening ceremony of the 29<sup>th</sup> World Jodo Shinshu Coordinating Council Meeting at the Hongwanji Administration building at which time Socho Koshin Ogui presented a check for \$251,957.00 which represented the donations collected by the BCA for the memorial.

## JAPAN EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI RELIEF EFFORT – UPDATE

Buddhist Churches of America collected \$1,141,934.37 which was presented to Bishop Shoshin Tachibana, Governor General of the Hongwanji Administration, during a special ceremony on May 18, 2011 in conjunction with the opening ceremony of the 29<sup>th</sup> World Jodo Shinshu Coordinating Council Meeting. This amount represents the donations received by the BCA from members as well as other groups and individuals in response to the April 20, 2011 deadline. We realize that the BCA temples are continuing their efforts to collect and receive donations for this relief effort. As such, the BCA will continue to receive donations towards the earthquake tsunami relief through August 31, 2011, at which time the additional donations will be forwarded to the Hongwanji. The Hongwanji International Department is currently preparing a report on how the monies are being used and distributed. Once the report is received, BCA will share it with the BCA temples.

## HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII ELECTS A NEW BISHOP

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii announced the election of Rev. Eric Matsumoto as the Bishop of the Hawaii Kyodan. Bishop Matsumoto was confirmed at the 99<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of the Hawaii Mission and took office on March 1, 2011.

## JODO SHINSHU TEMPLES OF CANADA ELECT A <u>NEW BISHOP</u>

The Jodo Shinshu temples of Canada announced that Rev. Grant Ikuta was elected it's Bishop who took office on May 1, 2011.